

Sidney T. Smith Residence  
3 Miles East of Grass Lake,  
Jackson County, Michigan.

HABS No. Mich. 115.

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Michigan

Historic American Buildings Survey  
F. Orla Varney, District Officer  
313 Garfield Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

SIDNEY T. SMITH RESIDENCE  
Three Miles East of Grass Lake  
Sharon Township - Michigan

38 GRALA V

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Owner Charles W. Smith

Date of Erection 1835

Architect Sidney T. Smith designed the house from others in the United States which followed Greek lines, presumably taking his plans from "The Modern Builder's Guide" published in New York in 1833 by Minard LaFever.

Builder Levi Babbit was the Mason Contractor on the house. A Mr. Smith was the head carpenter, for which work he received 75 cents per day. The other carpenters 50 cents per day.

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Central portion - two stories; one story wings.

Materials of Construction:

Other Existing Records: County Court House Records and from Charles W. Smith, present owner and son of the original builder.

Additional Data: All material in the house was obtained from timber on the farm. The logs were hauled by oxen from the place to Flint, there cut into lumber and returned to the farm by oxen.

During the construction of the home, the Sidney T. Smiths lived in a log cabin nearby, which they had built when they settled there a couple of years earlier. Mr. Smith had operated boats on the Great Lakes previously for a time, having been established in Detroit. He and Mrs. Smith were both born in New York. His General Merchandise store in Grass Lake was one of the first in the section. He later became State Senator and was

Sidney T. Smith Residence: (Continued)

Additional Data: (Continued)

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a personal friend of those stalwart pioneer statesmen Zachariah Chandler and Austin Blair.

With the exception of changes made in the size of the windows in the east wing, the building stands today, just as it was when built in 1835.

Walnut and white pine were used throughout. Many pieces of furniture in the house are of solid mahogany. A large part of the furnishings of the home are the same as they were in the days when the house was first constructed. Two pieces are notable - a set of candelabra done in gold leaf with crystal pendants and two large mirrors of exceptional quality.

*F. Orla Varney*  
F. Orla Varney, District Officer  
June 30, 1937.

REFERENCES: ATLAS OF JACKSON Co, 1874, pp 224, 93  
ARCH. RECORD, SEPT. 1922  
JACKSON TRIBUNE, AUG 2, 1929  
PAGEANT OF AMERICA, 1926, VOL XIII

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